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The real difficulty of forming a definite conclusion is found in that element of forgery and interpolation which, apart from Hardyng's rascalities, pervades the evidence. Who, for instance, could speak positively on "the great commendation" of 924, in the light of the MSS., or on the contested charter of Edgar relating to Lothian? Mr. Wyckoff, however, has rendered a real service by discussing the question as a whole and chronologically. It is particularly gratifying to European scholars to find American students accomplishing good work in medieval fields. The bibliography appended to these dissertations is a useful feature; but neither Earle's edition of the Chronicles nor the subsequent work of Mr. Plummer is mentioned in it.

J. H. ROUND.

*Marino Faliero: La Congiura.* By VITTORIO LAZZARINI. [Estratto dal Nuovo Archivio Veneto, tomo XIII., parte I.-II.] (Venezia: coi Tipi dei Fratelli Visentini. 1897. Pp. 205.)

In the present publication the short and tragic government of the doge Marino Faliero has been investigated with a thoroughness which, if it does not dispel every doubt that may be reasonably entertained about the celebrated conspiracy connected with that doge's name, at least sets into clear view all its larger aspects. Signor Lazzarini has performed a most scholarly piece of work. His exhaustive information about Marino Faliero he has presented under rubrics which embrace every phase of the case and though seemingly detached have a perfect logical unity. Part I., constituting a kind of preface, is a discussion of the sources and the bibliography of the subject. In this part the author enumerates first the documents, which, by the way, are few and unprofitable; then, considering in chronological order the records and histories which deal with the tragedy of the doge, he accompanies each with a brief estimate of its value. Part II. deals with Marino Faliero, his public life, and his election in 1354 to the highest office in the state. Part III. contrasts the famous legend of the insult of the doge by young and gay patricians with the facts as established by the documents. Part IV. narrates the history of the conspiracy, its discovery, and the execution of the doge. A number of additional parts discuss various matters of minor importance, such as accomplices, punishments and so forth, and, finally, an appendix treats of several detached problems of a sentimental interest, such as Faliero's sepulchre and Faliero's portrait, and, best of all, offers a reprint of the documents gathered by the author in the state archives of Venice.

The evidence collected by Lazzarini for the case of Marino Faliero is so complete, the intelligence and carefulness with which he has sifted that evidence are so conspicuous, that we have reason to expect that Lazzarini's presentation will be accepted as final. What then is it that the author has done for the story of the famous doge? In the first place he has cut away half a dozen of the myths which, gathering about the conspiracy from the day of its discovery as moss and ivy gather over ruined

houses, have luxuriantly spread and have finally to the careless eye obscured the features of the original event. Thus we may once for all dismiss as legendary the witchery of the *dogaressa* in whose beautiful face, as if it were the face of another Helen, romancing chroniclers were disposed to discover the prime source of the subsequent disasters. Likewise we may much reduce the traditional proportions of the insult offered to the doge by riotous members of the nobility. Lazzarini has clearly shown: (1) that an insult put upon a doge was nothing unique in Venetian annals; and (2) that the punishment which was meted out to the culprits and which is usually represented as ridiculously light, was fully as severe as the practice of the century prescribed.

Having cut away, one after another, the mythical incidents of the conspiracy, Lazzarini puts before us finally a small but compact kernel of facts. These facts soberly considered suffice to transfer the history of Marino Faliero from the nebular realm of Byronism, to which it has been so long confined, to this our earth, and set it upon a solid and reasonable foundation of human motive and contemporary circumstance. Lazzarini's demonstration will leave little doubt in any mind that if Marino Faliero did not, like a mere vain, bungling fool, undertake to overthrow the mighty oligarchy of Venice because he had been lampooned by some swaggering dandies, neither did he, moved by vague premonitions of an era of *liberté, égalité, fraternité*, attempt to supplant the nefarious regimen of the aristocracy by a popular government. It seems quite plain from Lazzarini that the dominating idea of the conspiring doge was personal and political. He simply wished to free himself from the restrictions with which in the course of time the Venetian executive had been shackled and to acquire, after the fashion of the contemporary despots of Padua, Milan, Verona, and all northern Italy, the *dominium* or absolute power over the Venetian realm. It is only too probable that in this desire he was confirmed by personal animosities, but motives of this nature we cannot help assigning in the case of so experienced and politic a gentleman as Faliero to a secondary rank.

These results, here briefly outlined, can hardly be called new. They are embodied in the reputable histories of Venice from Leo down to Battistella. Lazzarini's merit, therefore, does not consist in the novelty of his presentation; it consists rather in having buttressed the old surmises and deductions with such masses of interesting and assured facts that the ancient hypotheses transform themselves under our eyes to indubitable statements.

FERDINAND SCHWILL.

*The Diplomatic History of America. Its First Chapter.* 1452-1493-1494. BY HENRY HARRISSE. (London: B. F. Stevens. 1897. Pp. viii, 230.)

MR. HENRY HARRISSE, after having done more than any man in his generation to reveal all that can be known of the process of the discovery